

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

After the above amendments, claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-12 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10 and 11 are independent. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3 and 9 would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

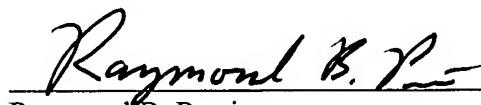
While the Applicants believe that the previously presented claims are distinguished from the cited prior art, Applicants have amended the claims to further prosecution. Specifically, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 7 to include the subject matter of claims 3 and 9 respectively. Further, Applicants have amended claims 4 and 5 to include the subject matter that was comprised in claim 3. Additionally, Applicants have amended claims 10 and 11 to include the subject matter that was comprised in claim 9.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is believed that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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